

Asia-related literary texts to support the Australian Curriculum for English

YEARS 9 - 10

Sorted by Title

Title	Author	Text type	Setting	Further information
Across the Nightingale Floor	Lian Hearn	Novel, series	Japan	One of a trilogy set in feudal Japan. Lian Hearn is a pseudonym for Gillian Rubenstein.
Alive in the Death Zone	Lincoln Hall	Autobiography	Tibet, Nepal	Lincoln Hall's survival story of being left presumed dead after summiting Mt Everest in 2006.
Amaryllis	Craig Crist-Evans	Novel	Vietnam, USA	A tale of two brothers set against backdrop of the Vietnam War in the 1960s – 70s.
Anila's Journey	Mary Finn	Novel	India	Menace and mystery lie in wait for Anila Tandy who secures a job drawing birds for an English naturalist, travelling on a river boat up the Ganges River. Anila will use this journey to search for her father, missing for years and presumed dead. Anila must test herself in the man's world of India, in the late 1700s.
Chalkline	Jane Mitchell	Novel	India	Set in Kashmir, India, this is the story of a Muslim boy, Rafiq, who becomes a child soldier in the India-Pakistan conflict over Kashmir. The author was born in Ireland.



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Chenxi and the Foreigner	Sally Rippin	Novel	China, Australia	At eighteen, Anna defers her university studies in Australia, to visit her father in Shanghai and falls in love with a Chinese painter.
Chinese Cinderella – The secret story of an unwanted daughter	Adeline Yen Mah	Autobiography	China	This is an abridged version of <i>Falling Leaves</i> , Yen Mah's autobiography of life in war-time Shanghai.
City of Ghosts	Bali Rai	Novel, historical	India	This novel is set in Amritsar in north India's Punjab region in 1919. It places young characters amongst events that resulted in a British military atrocity, hence the title. Listed for the 2010 Carnegie Award. The author is British of Indian decent.
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon	Lee Ang (director)	Film, 2000 feature film	China	This film is popular with students for its juxtaposition of 'aerial martial arts', a sacred sword quest, and an unrequited love story all set in stunning landscapes. It has parallels with Romeo and Juliet. Teacher activities can be found in <i>Film Asia</i> by Kwok and McKnight. Rated M (Australia).



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Film Asia: New Perspectives on film for English	Juanita Kwok and Lucinda McKnight	Resource text	Asia region, Intercultural knowledge	Provides stimulating background information and activities for fifteen films from Asia, including films listed here. Combines critical perspectives with teaching and learning ideas and supports teachers making links to Asia in creative and relevant ways in the English classroom. Films featured for these levels include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon</i> (China) • <i>Not One Less</i> (China)
Hanabi	Geoffrey Ainsworth	Range of text types including: Poetry, comics (manga),	Japan	Presents a variety of texts from or about modern Japan (including poetry, narrative comics, examples of different forms of language, etc) accompanied by full-colour photographs and learning activities designed to promote intercultural understanding .
Hey Joe	Michael Hyde	Novel	Vietnam, Australia	This is set in the Vietnam War era but is unusual because it explores the viewpoint of counter-culture. The title is from the Jimi Hendrix song. It is also about father-son relationships. Excellent teacher guide at the author's website: http://www.vulgar.com.au/hjguide.html Consider this text if you are looking at Australia's current role in Vietnam. Popular with male students. Listed as a 'Notable Book' in the <i>2004 CBC Awards</i> .



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Indo Dreaming	Neil Grant	Novel	Indonesia, Australia	A contemporary surfing odyssey incorporating Indonesian geography and culture, set in Indonesia and Western Australia.
Japan Diary	Trudy White	Novella, diary format	Japan, Australia	The personal journeys of two exchange students, one Australian and one Japanese presented in diary style.
Little Paradise	Gabrielle Wang	Novel	China, Australia	Set in WW2 this is a love story set amongst Chinese and Western cultures. Mirabel follows her love from Melbourne to Shanghai. The author is of Chinese-Australian descent and has won awards for her previous books.
Mao's Last Dancer	Li Cunxin	Autobiography	China, USA, UK, Australia	This is Li Cunxin's memoir of his origins in rural China and journey to become an international ballet dancer. He lives in Australia with his family and is also a stockbroker. This novel can be supported by the film version of <i>Mao's Last Dancer</i> . Winner <i>Australian Book of the Year</i> (2003).
Marrying Ameera	Rosanne Hawke	Novel	Pakistani – Australian context	A love story centering on Ameera, the 17 year old daughter of an Australian mother and Pakistani father. The Australian writer draws from her teaching experience in Pakistan and explores arranged marriages.



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Not One Less	Zhang Yimou (director)	Film, 2000 feature film	China	The village mayor appoints a 13 year old girl to be the substitute teacher. The film is visually stunning. <i>Film Asia</i> by Kwok and McKnight includes a chapter on this film. Rated G (Australia).
Only the Heart	Brian Caswell	Novel	Vietnam, Australia	This novel was written in collaboration with film maker and refugee David Phu An Chiem. It presents two stories about the same Vietnamese character ten years apart.
Photographs in the Mud	Dianne Wolfer, Brian Harrison- Lever (illustrator)	Picture book	Japan, Australia, Papua New Guinea	This book of photographs presents the story of the Kokoda Trail in 1942 from two viewpoints – one of a Japanese soldier and one of an Australian soldier. It explores commonalities as well as differences.
Reflections	Anthony Bott, Lee Grafton, Carolyn Millard & Doug Trevaskis	Range of text types including: stories, commentaries	Asia region	A range of accessible texts that explore voices from Asia through examples of different kinds of writing including folktales, oral histories, political commentary and positions. Accompanied by activities in the teacher resource. One of a series: <i>Impressions</i> (junior secondary), <i>Reflections</i> (middle secondary) and <i>Dimensions</i> (senior secondary).
Sold	Patricia McCormick	Novel	Nepal, India.	This novel explores a taboo subject of child prostitution. The 13 year old main character, Lakshmi, comes from a poor rural family. McCormick travelled to Nepal and India to research the book and interviewed women in Kolkata's red light district, as well as girls rescued from the sex trade.



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The Spare Room	Kathryn Lomer	Novel	Japan, Australia	Akira's family send him to Australia from Japan to learn English. He also learns to live between two cultures.
The Swap	Wendy Catran	Novel	Japan, Tonga, New Zealand	This novel takes place from WW2 to the 1950s. It is a tale of two girls and their experiences of internment and inter-marriage.
Tracking the Dalai Lama	Steve Tolbert	Novel	India, Tibet	This novel is set in the Dalai Lama's exile home of Dharamsala in northern India and follows Jess's journey.
Two Pearls of Wisdom	Alison Goodman	Novel, historical fantasy	China	Set in ancient China, this tale is based on the ancient lore of Chinese astrology and Feng Shui. The protagonist, a girl dressed as a male, is called Eon and is training to be a Dragoneye.
Unpolished Gem	Alice Pung	Autobiography	Chinese - Cambodian - Australian context	This is Alice Pung's memoir of her Chinese parents' post-Cambodia migrant experience, and her subsequent life in Melbourne. A great story telling voice, funny and poignant. For further information, go to: http://www.theage.com.au/news/book-reviews/unpolished-gem/2006/09/01/1156817080625.html

